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C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for procuring a manufacturer for a project request comprising the steps of:

submitting a specialized project request for a buyer to at least one manufacturer broker; responsive to said at least one manufacturer broker identifying one from among a plurality of current project requests filed with said at least one manufacturer broker that matches said specialized project request, receiving a notification for said buyer of said one of said plurality of current project requests that matches said specialized project request;

responsive to receiving a selection by said buyer of said one of said plurality of current project requests, submitting said selection to said at least one manufacturer broker, wherein said at least one manufacturer broker facilitates specialization of said one of said plurality of current project requests by said buyer;

responsive to said at least one manufacturer broker not matching said specialized project request with said one from among said plurality of current project requests, receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for manufacture of said project request from a plurality of prospective manufacturers via said at least one manufacturer broker; and

processing, by a computer system, said plurality of feasibility responses so as to select responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer from among said plurality of prospective manufacturers, such that said buyer procures said manufacturer from among said plurality of prospective manufacturers utilizing a single project request.

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2. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of submitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

submitting said specialized project request from a client communicatively connected through a network to a broker server system.

3. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of submitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

selecting a plurality of categories of manufacturers to invite bids from for said project request.

4. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of submitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

providing a project specification file storage location.

5. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of submitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

indicating a level of security for said specialized project request.

6. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising the step of:

receiving a bid to manufacture said project request from a selection of said plurality of prospective manufacturers.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of processing, by a computer system, said plurality of feasibility responses so as to select responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer from among said plurality of prospective manufacturers, further comprising the steps [step] of:

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receiving, in at least one of said plurality of feasibility responses, a suggestion for adjusting said specialized project request to increase manufacturing feasibility; and

processing, by said computer system, said suggestion so as to adjust said specialized project request when selecting said manufacturer.

8. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising the step of:

receiving a project request cancellation due to lack of manufacturing feasibility.

9. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

submitting an adjusted project request in response to said plurality of feasibility responses.

10. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer further comprising the steps of:

selecting a preferred manufacturer; and

selecting at least one alternative manufacturer.

11. (Original) The method for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 1, said step of responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer further comprising the step of:

selecting said manufacturer according to at least one rating for said manufacturer.

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12. (Currently Amended) A system for procuring a manufacturer for a project request comprising:

a client computer system communicatively connected to a network;

means for submitting a specialized project request for a buyer from said client computer system to at least one manufacturer broker via said network;

means, responsive to said at least one manufacturer broker identifying one from among a plurality of current project requests filed with said at least one manufacturer broker that matches said specialized project request, for receiving a notification for said buyer of said one of said plurality of current project requests that matches said specialized project request;

means, responsive to receiving a selection by said buyer of said one of said plurality of current project requests, for submitting said selection to said at least one manufacturer broker, wherein said at least one manufacturer broker facilitates specialization of said one of said plurality of current project requests by said buyer;

means responsive to said at least one manufacturer broker not matching said specialized project request with said one from among said plurality of current project requests, for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses as compiled by said at least one manufacturer broker for manufacture of said project request from a plurality of prospective manufacturers via said network; and

means for responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer from among said plurality of prospective manufacturers.

13. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for submitting a specialized project request further comprising:

means for selecting at said client computer system a plurality of categories of manufacturers to invite bids from for said project request.

14. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for submitting a specialized project request further comprising:

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means for providing a project specification file storage location.

15. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for submitting a specialized project request further comprising:

means for indicating a level of security for said specialized project request.

16. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising:

means for receiving a bid to manufacture said project request from a selection of said plurality of prospective manufacturers.

17. (Currently Amended) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising:

means for receiving, in at least one of said plurality of feasibility responses, a suggestion for adjusting said project request to increase manufacturing feasibility; and

means for adjusting said specialized project request according to said suggestion when selecting said manufacturer.

18. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising:

means for receiving a project request cancellation due to lack of manufacturing feasibility.

19. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said system further comprising:

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means for submitting an adjusted project request from said client system via said network in response to said plurality of feasibility responses.

20. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer further comprising:

means for selecting a preferred manufacturer; and
means for selecting at least one alternative manufacturer.

21. (Original) The system for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 12, said means for responding to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer further comprising:

means for selecting said manufacturer according to at least one rating for said manufacturer.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program for procuring a manufacturer, said program embodied in a computer-readable medium, said program comprising computer-executable instructions which cause a computer to perform the steps of ~~residing on a computer-readable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:~~

~~means for transmitting a specialized project request for a buyer to at least one manufacturer broker;~~

~~responsive to said at least one manufacturer broker identifying one from among a plurality of current project requests filed with said at least one manufacturer broker that matches said specialized project request, receiving a notification for said buyer of said one of said plurality of current project requests that matches said specialized project request;~~

~~responsive to receiving a selection by said buyer of said one of said plurality of current project requests, enabling submission of said selection to said at least one manufacturer broker,~~

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wherein said at least one manufacturer broker facilitates specialization of said one of said plurality of current project requests by said buyer;

responsive to said at least one manufacturer broker not matching said specialized project request with said one from among said plurality of current project requests, means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for manufacture of said project request from a plurality of prospective manufacturers via said at least one manufacturer broker; and

means for enabling a response to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer from among said plurality of prospective manufacturers, such that said buyer procures said manufacturer from among said plurality of prospective manufacturers utilizing a single project request.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for transmitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

means for transmitting said specialized project request from a client communicatively connected through a network to a broker server system.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for transmitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

means for transmitting a selection of a plurality of categories of manufacturers to invite bids from for said project request.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for transmitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

means for transmitting a project specification file storage location.

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26. (Currently Amended) The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for transmitting a specialized project request further comprising the step of:

means for transmitting an indication of a level of security for said specialized project request.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising the step of:

means for receiving a bid to manufacture said project request from a selection of said plurality of prospective manufacturers.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising the steps of:

means for receiving, in at least one of said plurality of feasibility responses, a suggestion for adjusting said project request to increase manufacturing feasibility; and

adjusting said specialized project request according to said suggestion when selecting said manufacturer.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for receiving a plurality of feasibility responses for said project request further comprising the step of:

means for receiving a project request cancellation due to lack of manufacturing feasibility.

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30. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said computer program [system] further comprising the step of:
means for transmitting an adjusted project request in response to said plurality of feasibility responses.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for enabling a response to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer further comprising the steps of:
means for selecting a preferred manufacturer; and
means for selecting at least one alternative manufacturer.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program [system] for procuring a manufacturer according to claim 22, said step of means for enabling a response to said plurality of feasibility responses by selecting a manufacturer further comprising the step of:
means for selecting said manufacturer according to at least one rating for said manufacturer.

33. **(Currently Amended)** A method for brokering project requests among a plurality of available manufacturers, said method comprising the steps of:
receiving a project request from a buyer;
processing, by a computer system, said project request so as to compare said project request with a plurality of current project requests;
responsive to detecting that said project request matches one of said plurality of current project requests, notifying said buyer that said project request matches one of said plurality of current project requests;
responsive to receiving a buyer request for said one of said plurality of current project requests, facilitating said buyer in placing a specified order for said one of said plurality of current project requests;

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responsive to not detecting a match between one of said plurality of current project requests, distributing said project request according to type of manufacture to a selection of prospective manufacturers from among a plurality of available manufacturers; and

in response to receiving a plurality of feasibility responses from said selection of prospective manufacturers, processing, by a computer system, said plurality of feasibility responses so as to facilitate [facilitating] a determination of the feasibility of manufacture of said project request according to said plurality of feasibility responses, such that said project request is brokered for said buyer to facilitate obtaining a manufacturer for said project request.

34. (Original) The method for brokering project requests among a plurality of available manufacturers according to claim 33, said method further comprising the step of:

receiving said project request at and distributing said project request from a broker server communicatively connected through a network to a plurality of client systems and a plurality of manufacturer systems.

35. Cancelled

36. (Original) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said method further comprising the step of:

transferring said plurality of feasibility responses received from said selection of prospective manufacturers to said buyer.

37. (Original) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said step of facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprises the steps of:

distributing said project request to a plurality of potential customers;

receiving customer interest responses from said plurality of potential customers; and

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distributing said customer interest responses with said project request to said selection of prospective manufacturers in order to provide said selection of prospective manufacturers with an indication of customer interest.

38. (Original) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said step of facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprises the steps of:

in response to receiving request adjustment suggestions from said selection of prospective manufacturers, compiling a suggested project request;

transferring said suggested project request to said buyer; and

in response to receiving an adjusted project request from said buyer, transmitting said adjusted project request to said selection of prospective manufacturers.

39. (Currently Amended) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said step of facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprising the steps of:

in response to receiving responses indicating said project request lacks feasibility, adjusting said project request;

polling said selection of prospective manufacturers with said adjusted project request; and

transferring [said] a plurality of adjusted project request feasibility responses received from said selection of prospective manufacturers for said adjusted project request to said buyer.

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40. (Original) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said method further comprising the step of:

controlling access of said plurality of available manufacturers to said plurality of feasibility responses.

41. (Original) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said method further comprising the step of:

distributing said project request to specific manufacturers designated by said buyer with said project request.

42. (Currently Amended) The method for brokering project requests according to claim 33, said method further comprising the step of:

transferring said project request and [said] a selection of a preferred manufacturer from among said selection of prospective manufacturers to an order procurement system.

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43. (Currently Amended) A system for brokering project requests among a plurality of available manufacturers, said system comprising:

a broker server system communicatively connected to a network;
means for receiving a project request at said broker server system from a buyer;
means for comparing said project request with a plurality of current project requests;
means, responsive to detecting that said project request matches one of said plurality of current project requests, for notifying said buyer from said broker server system that said project request matches one of said plurality of current project requests;
means, responsive to receiving a buyer request for said one of said plurality of current project requests at said broker server system, for facilitating said buyer in placing a specified order for said one of said plurality of current project requests;
means, responsive to not detecting a match between one of said plurality of current project requests, for distributing said project request via said network according to type of manufacture to a selection of prospective manufacturers from among a plurality of available manufacturers; and
means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request according to said plurality of feasibility responses, in response to receiving a plurality of feasibility responses at said broker system from said selection of prospective manufacturers.

44. Cancelled

45. (Original) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said system further comprising:

means for transferring said plurality of feasibility responses received from said selection of prospective manufacturers to said buyer.

46. (Original) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprises:

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means for distributing said project request to a plurality of potential customers;
means for receiving customer interest responses from said plurality of potential customers; and

means for distributing said customer interest responses with said project request to said selection of prospective manufacturers in order to provide said selection of prospective manufacturers with an indication of customer interest.

47. (Original) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprises:

means for compiling a suggested project request, in response to receiving request adjustment suggestions from said selection of prospective manufacturers;

means for transferring said suggested project request to said buyer; and

means for transmitting said adjusted project request to said selection of prospective manufacturers, in response to receiving an adjusted project request from said buyer.

48. (Currently Amended) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprising:

means for adjusting said project request, in response to receiving responses indicating said project request lacks feasibility;

means for polling said selection of prospective manufacturers with said adjusted project request; and

means for transferring [said] a plurality of adjusted project request feasibility responses received from said selection of prospective manufacturers for said adjusted project request to said buyer.

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49. (Original) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said system further comprising:

means for controlling access of said plurality of available manufacturers to said plurality of feasibility responses.

50. (Original) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said system further comprising:

means for distributing said project request to specific manufacturers designated by said buyer with said project request.

51. (Currently Amended) The system for brokering project requests according to claim 43, said system further comprising:

means for transferring said project request and [said] a selection of a preferred manufacturer from among said selection of prospective manufacturers to an order procurement system.

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52. (Currently Amended) A computer program for brokering project requests among a plurality of available manufacturers, said program embodied in a computer readable medium, said program comprising computer-executable instructions which cause a computer to perform the steps of residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for receiving a project request from a buyer;
comparing said project request with a plurality of current project requests;
responsive to detecting that said project request matches one of said plurality of current project requests, notifying said buyer that said project request matches one of said plurality of current project requests;
responsive to receiving a buyer request for said one of said plurality of current project requests, facilitating said buyer in placing a specified order for said one of said plurality of current project requests;
responsive to not detecting a match between one of said plurality of current project requests, means for transmitting said project request according to type of manufacture to a selection of prospective manufacturers from among a plurality of available manufacturers; and
means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request according to said plurality of feasibility responses, in response to receiving a plurality of feasibility responses from said selection of prospective manufacturers.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests among a plurality of available manufacturers according to claim 52, said program further comprising the step of:

means for receiving said project request at and distributing said project request from a broker server communicatively connected through a network to a plurality of client systems and a plurality of manufacturer systems.

54. **Cancelled**

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55. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, said program further comprising the step of:

~~means for~~ transferring said plurality of feasibility responses received from said selection of prospective manufacturers to said buyer.

56. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, wherein said step of means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprises the steps of:

~~means for~~ distributing said project request to a plurality of potential customers;

~~means for~~ receiving customer interest responses from said plurality of potential customers; and

~~means for~~ distributing said customer interest responses with said project request to said selection of prospective manufacturers in order to provide said selection of prospective manufacturers with an indication of customer interest.

57. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, wherein said step of means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprises the steps of:

~~means for~~ compiling a suggested project request, in response to receiving request adjustment suggestions from said selection of prospective manufacturers;

~~means for~~ transferring said suggested project request to said buyer; and

~~means for~~ transmitting said adjusted project request to said selection of prospective manufacturers, in response to receiving an adjusted project request from said buyer.

58. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, said said step of means for facilitating feasibility of manufacture of said project request further comprising the steps of:

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~~means for~~ adjusting said project request, in response to receiving responses indicating said project request lacks feasibility;

~~means for~~ polling said selection of prospective manufacturers with said adjusted project request; and

~~means for~~ transferring said a plurality of adjusted project request feasibility responses received from said selection of prospective manufacturers for said adjusted project request to said buyer.

59. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, said program further comprising the step of:

~~means for~~ controlling access of said plurality of available manufacturers to said plurality of feasibility responses.

60. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, said program further comprising the step of:

~~means for~~ distributing said project request to specific manufacturers designated by said buyer with said project request.

61. (Currently Amended) The computer program for brokering project requests according to claim 52, said program further comprising the step of:

~~means for~~ transferring said project request and said a selection of a preferred manufacturer from among said selection of prospective manufacturers to an order procurement system.